

January 31, 2007

**Statement by Congressman Pete Stark
In Support of Funding Government Activities**

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of cleaning up the Republicans' mess. The previous Congress failed to pass 9 of 11 appropriations bills, creating the worst budget mess since the government shut down in 1996.

Today's resolution is far from perfect. But while adhering to the spending limit in the Republican budget, it provides significant funding increases to several important programs.

First, the continuing resolution for fiscal year 2007 provides housing assistance to 227,000 people through a \$1.4 billion increase for Section 8 housing programs. Second, it finances construction of hundreds of new community health centers and improvements to existing facilities. Third, today's bill increases funding for Head Start by \$104 million to help prevent a drop in enrollments. Fourth, it raises the maximum Pell Grant by \$260, which will help more than 5.3 million students afford college.

It's time to get to work on the people's business. Cleaning up a mess is never fun, but because Republicans failed to take 'personal responsibility' for this year's budget, it is necessary. I urge my colleagues to vote yes.